

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS20650

This part of Idaho's Students Come First legislation relates to public school modernization and reform. The Idaho Legislature has a duty to ensure Idaho's schools are on firm financial ground. In the past two years, approximately \$200 million in state funds have been cut from Idaho's public school system. To ensure the state can educate more students at a higher level with limited resources, the state must reform and modernize the educational system. The Students Come First legislation reprioritizes statutory requirements to strategically invest in Idaho's educators and technology, and increases transparency for Idaho's public school system. It accomplishes this by making the following changes:

- The State Department of Education will post a fiscal report card for each school district.
- Each school district will post its budget and master labor agreement online.
- Increases the state's minimum teacher salary to \$30,000.
- Allows districts flexibility in the "use it or lose it" portion of salary based apportionment, giving districts the flexibility to manage with decreased funding. Districts will be authorized to keep the positions and funding associated with salary based apportionment if not fully utilized up to 6% in FY 2012, 8% in FY 2013, 10% in FY 2014. The bill reallocates dollars from the funding formula to other areas within the public schools budget. The adjustment ranges from 1.67% to 6.42% over the next five years.
- Follows existing law by funding the automatic movement on the grid for the FY2012 fiscal year and restores the one year of education credits that had been frozen.
- Creates a funding formula to reestablish funding for instructional technology in Idaho's classrooms as well as the necessary professional development for teachers.
- Creates a taskforce to study and develop plans for implementation of online courses, one-to-one mobile computing devices, and other advanced technology in the classroom. The task force will include superintendents, principals, classroom teachers, educational technology experts, representatives of the business community, leaders of educational stakeholder groups, and legislators.
- Provides high school teachers with mobile computing devices first in the rollout beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. Provides one-third of high school students access to mobile computing devices beginning with the 2013-2014 school year until all students have access to such devices by 2015-2016. The state will pay for the repair, maintenance, security, and support of the devices, from the overall budget determined by the Legislature. Districts will determine how students utilize the devices. Districts that already have one-to-one computing device ratios will be allocated discretionary funding instead of devices.
- Requires the State Board of Education to create digital citizenship standards, and to consider adding online courses as a graduation requirement for the class of 2016. • Establishes a fractional average daily attendance funding system for dual enrolled students and students who enroll in online courses, if the school district has no contract in place with the content provider. Registration for

online courses is done through each district's normal registration process. Also provides a minimum of \$3.5 million in FY13 and FY14 for the Idaho Digital Learning Academy (current funding is \$5 million).

- Creates a formula for funding dual credit courses for eligible students from the overall budget determined by the Legislature.
- Creates a formula for providing additional resources for school districts to implement the state's increased graduation requirement for math and science courses, from the overall budget determined by the Legislature.
- Creates a funding formula that provides the necessary resources for the pay for performance plan, from the overall budget determined by the Legislature.
- Allows public post-secondary institutions to operate public charter high schools.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation will save the state General Fund the following amounts:

FY12 – (\$5,550,000) cost. This cost has been accounted for by \$9.4 million in savings in SB 1108
FY13 - \$21,710,000 savings
FY14 - \$35,010,000 savings
FY15 - \$35,010,000 savings
FY16 - \$34,970,000 savings
FY17 - \$35,010,000 savings

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